

## General Notices.

and the following gist of the admirable speech of Governor Shannon, on taking the Chair as the President of the Kansas "Law and Order" Convention:

Governor Shannon said the Convention was called to take into consideration subjects of the most important character, and that he was glad to be standing up, taking the position that the late Legislature was a nullity, and that its laws possessed no binding obligation on the people of Kansas. These gentlemen, as he called them, had taken this position not only in their Resolutions and Addresses, but of late they had taken decisive steps towards making their position good. There was a crisis was forced upon the opposition party, and they must choose between two courses. He would not stop to go into any argument showing the "fallacy of the grounds of those opposed to us." He then went on to speak of the Legislature, and asserted that it was a legal body, and as such its enactments should be respected. Each member took his seat in a legal manner with the proper certificate.

seats were contested, but each case was decided in the ordinary way. The House said the doubted right to do this. Then it followed, he said, that those who said they would not obey the laws passed by that body, committed treason against the Government. The Free State Party had taken distinct grounds and manifested a determination to carry out their doctrines. Next he referred to Whitefield's election, and said that Reeder's election was a revolutionary movement; that the people ought to have voted the same day that the Legislature had fixed. Those who voted Reeder nullified the organic act by voting on the 9th of October.

They nullify not only the acts of the legislature, but also the acts of Congress. The reason the Free State Party assigned for not voting the regular day was, that the Missourians would come over and take the polls. If three fourths of the voters were Free State men, as they claimed, why not come out and meet "us" face to face. There was no danger of having the ballot-box polluted, for the "much abused legislative body," as he said, had passed an election law amply guarding it. The polls could be purified by this law, and hence there was no cause for the con-  
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But they had not stopped here, but had proceeded to adopt a measure which would shake the whole fabric of civil government in Kansas and the Union.— They had issued a call to all "in favor of a free State" to elect delegates to a constitutional convention, thus excluding one party from having anything to do with the Convention. They had undertaken to make a Constitution, when only a portion of the people had been invited to participate in it. It was the attempt

*If Congress should by any means sanction this Constitution, nothing more nor less than civil war must follow. If Kansas wants to be admitted, why not adopt the way that has not been departed from in the admission of any State except California?—which was to apply to Congress for permission to frame a constitution. This was the only proper way to be admitted.*

*If any laws passed by the Legislature were injurious, the way to remedy it was through the ballot-box.*

The laws had not yet been published, so they were not understood. The assertion which he had seen in print, that the Legislature elected all the officers for six years, was not so. They were obliged to appoint county officers; in no other could they get along, but the people would after the next election, choose their own officers.

He then denounced "those gentlemen opposed to us" as a revolutionary party. The territorial government which they sought to supplant "was established by the people themselves," but he did not say what people. He closed by saying: "Fellow-citizens, a promise is upon us, and we must meet it. We must do this by the power of truth. Place before Congress the true state of the case, let Congress have the facts, and they will get no favor from that quarter." True, there were a few disunionists in Congress, but only a few. "Rely upon it," said he, "*you have the Ad-*

**Austrian Recognition of American Genius.** The great gold medal of science and arts conferred upon Professor Morse by the Emperor of Austria, in acknowledgment of services rendered to the world.

We have been put in possession of the following correspondence, which shows the appreciation by other European sovereigns of the convention of the electro-magnetic telegraph.

The gold medal is a massive and beautiful specimen of art. On one side is a medallion head of the young Emperor, crowned with laurel, with the inscription, "Franciscus Josephus I., D. G., Austriæ Imperator;" and on the obverse, a wreath of laurel surrounding the imperial crown, with the inscription,

Literis et artibus." This is the fourth token of acknowledgment from European sovereigns accorded to and received by Professor Morse:

BOSTON, August 4, 1855.

SIR: I have much pleasure in transmitting to you, in order of the imperial government, the great golden medal for science and art which his Majesty the Emperor of Austria has been pleased to confer upon you, in acknowledgment of your eminent merits concerning the telegraphic system in general, as well as development in Austria in particular. It is very

disfatory to myself to be the organ of the imperial  
government on this agreeable occasion, and I beg you  
will, at the same time, permit me to express to you  
my great personal regard.

Remaining, sir, very respectfully, your obedient  
servant,  
HULSEMANN,  
Chargé d'Affaires of his Majesty the Emperor of  
Austria.

To Professor MORSE, Poughkeepsie, New York.

*A Winter Landscape in Russia.*

Nothing interesting presenting itself, we travelled onwards through towns and villages, and over a weary country, rendered many times more so by the season. All around was a vast wintry flat, and frequently no vestige of man or of cultivation was seen, not even a solitary tree, to break the boundless expanse of snow. Indeed, no idea can be formed of the immense plains we traversed, unless you imagine yourself at sea, far, far from the sight of land. The Arabian deserts cannot be more awful to the eye than

the appearance of this scene. Such is the general aspect of the country during the rigors of winter, with snow and then an exception of a large forest skirting the horizon for a considerable length of way. At intervals as you shoot along, you see openings among lofty trees, from which emerge picturesque groups of natives and their one horse sledges, whereon are placed the different articles of commerce, going to various parts of this empire. They travel in vast numbers, and from all quarters, seldom fewer than one hundred and fifty in a string, having a driver to

very seventh horse." The effect of this cavalcade at distance is very curious; and in a morning, as they advance towards you, the scene is as beautiful as striking. The sun, then rising, throws his rays across the snow, transforming it to the sight into the surface of diamonds. From the cold of the night every man and horse is incrustured with these frosty articles; and the beams falling on them, too, seem to cover their rude faces and rugged habits with tinsel of the most dazzling brilliants. The manes of the horses, and the boards of the reins, form the

res, and the long beatus of the men, from the anity of congealed breath, have a particularly glit-  
ing effect.—*R. K. Porter.*

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The following singular death appears noticed in  
late number of the Natchez Courier :

"Died, of medical quackery, at his father's resi-  
dence, in Franklin county, Mississippi, on the 25th  
October, Silas W. Smith, aged 10 years."











